

# City renews efforts to get road improved

York County and the city of Poquoson have renewed their efforts to get construction started immediately for a new Route 171 from the Poquoson city limits to Route 17.

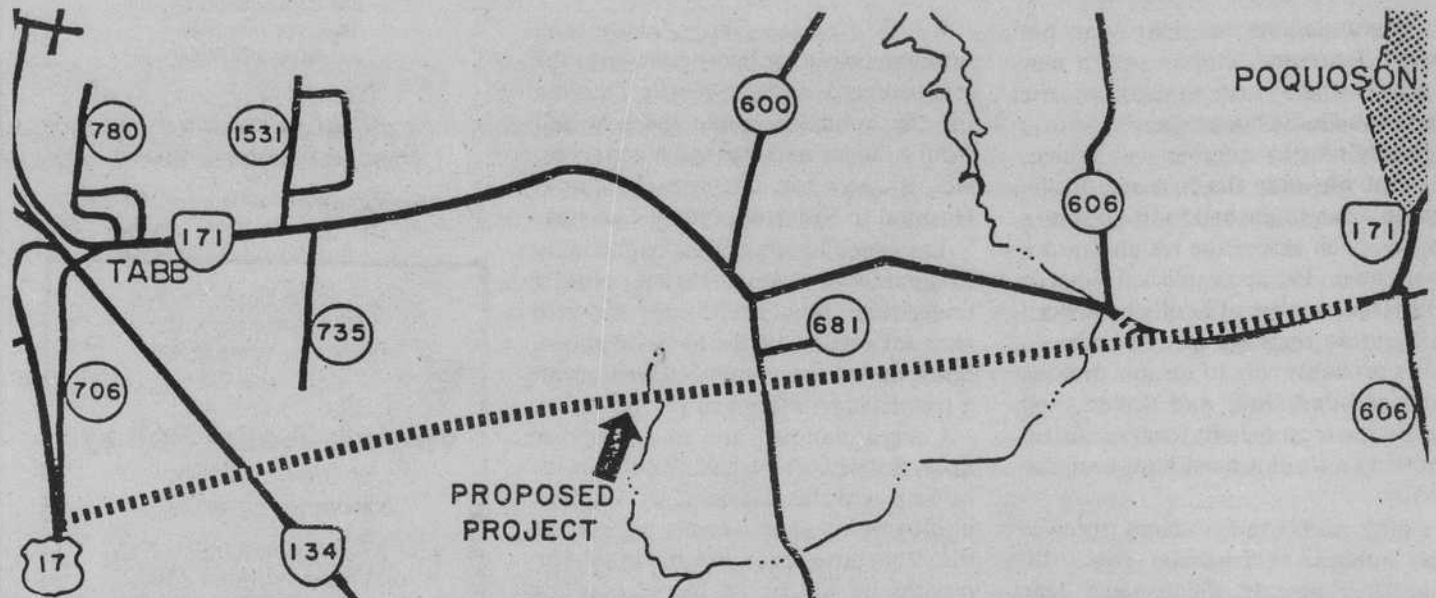
In a memorandum to the York County Board of Supervisors, dated Dec. 2, 1982, County Administrator John M. Richardson said the relocation of this primary route has been of substantial formal concern to the county for almost fifteen years.

"Since 1978," Richardson states, "the Board of Supervisors has consistently responded to the request of the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation for a listing of its priorities for construction on primary State highways. Equally as consistently, the Board has officially indicated that Route 171 was the highest priority for all primary route construction requests."

The results of five years of official requests have resulted in the construction of a few drainage improvements along existing Route 171 which are necessary if and when relocated Route 171 is constructed.

Richardson's memo states that the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation has received bids on two occasions for the reconstruction of Route 171. On each occasion, the bid prices exceeded the estimates by the Highway Department and the bids were rejected. To date, no rescheduling of the bid request is known.

Poquoson's city council has also made repeated requests for im-



provements to Route 171. They have approved four resolutions since June 22, 1976. The last one was dated Dec. 13, 1982.

Two letters have been written in December to Senator Hunter B. Andrews by City Manager James Lord informing him of the situation and requesting any assistance he can offer to alleviate the problem.

The city has also developed a petition for citizens to sign requesting the immediate construction of relocating Route 171.

York County and Poquoson administrators cite the following facts to support the need for immediate action:

- York County and the city of

Poquoson are two of the fastest growing communities in the region and Route 171 has assumed a new and greater importance in serving these areas.

- From 1968 to 1981 the annual vehicle miles travelled on this section of road has increased from 2.076 million to 6.09 million, reflecting the significant role Route 171 has assumed in the regional transportation system.

- The 2.94 miles of Route 171 represents .04 percent of the total State

primary route mileage and .05 percent of primary travel mileage; however, the number of accidents on the route constitute .14 percent of the state total and the number of persons injured represents .15 percent.

- According to traffic information developed from the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation during review of the Land Use Plan, Route 171 has a rated hourly capacity of 548 vehicles per hour and a volume of 658 vehicles per hour.

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## Primary Route Accident Analysis

Rates expressed in number/type per 100 million vehicle miles of travel

|                      | Total Accident Rate | Injury Accident Rate |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| State Average        |                     |                      |
| 1968                 | 331                 | 157                  |
| 1979                 | 235                 | 127                  |
| 1980                 | 218                 | 125                  |
| 1981                 | 221                 | 131                  |
| District Average     |                     |                      |
| 1968                 | 256                 | 140                  |
| 1979                 | 183                 | 103                  |
| 1980                 | 163                 | 111                  |
| 1981                 | 168                 | 111                  |
| Residency Average    |                     |                      |
| 1968                 | 271                 | 143                  |
| 1979 (Not available) |                     |                      |
| 1980                 | 216                 | 139                  |
| 1981                 | 238                 | 157                  |
| County Average       |                     |                      |
| 1968                 | 220                 | 92                   |
| 1979 (Not available) |                     |                      |
| 1980                 | 259                 | 164                  |
| 1981                 | 262                 | 177                  |
| Route 171            |                     |                      |
| 1968                 | 385                 | 289                  |
| 1979                 | 528                 | 117                  |
| 1980                 | 713                 | 428                  |
| 1981                 | 690                 | 427                  |

Source: Summary of Accident Data, State Highway Systems  
Published annually by the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation